

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A thermal insulation product comprising  
a loose fill; and

at least one carbonate dispersed in the loose fill,

wherein the at least one carbonate comprises particles having a mean diameter of  
from 3 to 6  $\mu$ m.

Claim 2 (Original): The product according to Claim 1, wherein the loose fill  
comprises fibers selected from the group consisting of cellulose-containing fibers, synthetic  
polymer fibers, rock wool fibers, and glass fibers.

Claim 3 (Original): The product according to Claim 1, wherein the loose fill  
comprises at least one of shredded recycled newspapers and ground recycled newspapers.

Claim 4 (Original): The product according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one  
carbonate is dispersed uniformly in the loose fill.

Claim 5 (Original): The product according to Claim 1, wherein the product  
comprises the at least one carbonate in an amount of from 1 to 40% by weight.

Claim 6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Original): The product according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one  
carbonate comprises calcium carbonate.

Claim 8 (Original): The product according to Claim 1, further comprising a binder joining the at least one carbonate to the loose fill.

Claim 9 (Original): The product according to Claim 1, further comprising a mineral oil dispersed in the loose fill.

Claim 10 (Original): The product according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one carbonate absorbs infrared radiation having a wavelength in a range of 4 to 40  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): A method of using a thermal insulation product, the method comprising positioning the product of Claim 1 in an interior of a hollow or open object.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): A method of making a thermal insulation product, the method comprising dispersing at least one carbonate in a loose fill.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): The method according to Claim 12, further comprising positioning the loose fill in an interior of a hollow or open object.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): The method according to Claim 13, wherein the positioning comprises pouring or blowing the loose fill into the interior of the hollow or open object.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): The method according to Claim 13, wherein the at least one carbonate is dispersed in the loose fill before the loose fill is positioned in the interior of the hollow or open object.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): The method according to Claim 12, wherein the at least one carbonate is dispersed uniformly in the loose fill.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): The method according to Claim 12, wherein the dispersing comprises

wetting the loose fill with a liquid mixture containing a liquid and the at least one carbonate to form a wet loose fill mixture; and  
removing the liquid from the wet loose fill mixture.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn): The method according to Claim 17, wherein the liquid is removed from the wet loose fill mixture by air drying.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): The method according to Claim 17, further comprising dispersing a binder in the liquid mixture.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn): The method according to Claim 12, further comprising dispersing a binder in the loose fill with the at least one carbonate.

Claim 21 (Withdrawn): The method according to Claim 12, further comprising dispersing mineral oil in the loose fill.

Claim 22 (Withdrawn): The method according to Claim 12, wherein the at least one carbonate comprises calcium carbonate.

Claim 23 (Withdrawn): The method according to Claim 12, wherein the loose fill comprises fibers elected from the group consisting of cellulose-containing fibers, synthetic polymer fibers, rock wool fibers, and glass fibers.

Claim 24 (Withdrawn): The method according to Claim 12, wherein the loose fill comprises at least one of shredded recycled newspapers and ground recycled newspapers.

Claim 25 (New): The product according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one carbonate comprises particles having a mean diameter of from 4 to 6  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 26 (New): The product according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one carbonate comprises particles having a mean diameter of from 3 to 5  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 27 (New): The product according to Claim 1, wherein the loose fill is in the form of at least one of flakes, powders, granules or nodules.

Claim 28 (New): The product according to Claim 1, wherein the loose fill is at least one inorganic material selected from the group consisting of diatomaceous silica, perlite, vermiculite, silica aerogel, calcium silicate, opacified colloidal alumina, alumina bubbles, zirconia bubbles, and granulated charcoal.

Claim 29 (New): The product according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one carbonate comprises particles having a mean diameter of from 2 to 5  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 30 (New): The product according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one carbonate comprises particles having a mean diameter of 2 to 4  $\mu\text{m}$ .

BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claims 1-5 and 7-30 are active in the present application. Claim 6 has been canceled. Claims 1-10 and 25-30 are currently under active prosecution. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of previous Claim 6. Claims 11-24 are non-elected claims withdrawn by restriction. Claims 25-30 are new claims. Support for new Claim 25 is found on page 6, line 16 in the original claims. Support for new Claim 26 is found in Table 2 on page 7. Support for new Claim 27 is found on page 1, lines 21-22. Support for new Claim 28 is found on page 4, lines 25-29. Support for new Claims 29 and 30 is found on page 4, line 11 and Tables 1 and 2 on pages 6 and 7. No new matter is believed to have been added by this amendment.